

# Mineral Industry Surveys

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## ANTIMONY IN THE SECOND QUARTER 2005

Domestic consumption of primary antimony in the second quarter of 2005 was estimated by the U.S. Geological Survey to be about 11% lower than that of the first quarter of 2005 and about 19% lower than that of the second quarter of 2004. In the first 5 months of 2005, China continued to be the leading supplier of all forms (ore and concentrate, metal, and oxide) of antimony, with Mexico ranking second in most categories.

Antimony prices continued their rise during the second quarter. The Platts Metals Week New York dealer price for antimony metal started the second quarter in the range of \$1.45 to \$1.50 per pound and finished the second quarter in the range of \$1.57 to \$1.62 per pound.

A major antimony smelter, Great Lakes Chemical Corp. (Lafayette, IN), merged with the Crompton Corp. (Middlebury, CT) to form a new business entity, Chemtura Corp. (Middlebury, CT). With the all-stock merger, the combined company claimed to be the fourth-largest publicly traded American specialty chemicals producer and the world's largest plastics additives company. Chemtura, with combined pro forma 2004 revenues of \$3.7 billion and a market capitalization of about \$3.3 billion, began trading on the New York Stock Exchange on July 5. Chemtura's antimony smelter is in Reynosa, Mexico, where it is operated as a joint venture with Laurel Industries, Inc. (Dallas, TX) under the name GLCCLaurel LLC (Chemtura Corp., 2005).

A.G.D. Mining Ltd. (Melbourne, Australia) announced its intention to proceed with its antimony and gold project in Augusta, Australia. A.G.D. had launched a \$2.4 million share issue in August 2004 to provide initial equity funding. A.G.D.'s major shareholder, Cambrian Mining plc (Melbourne, Australia), will contribute \$7.1 million to the mine development and process plant construction. The project was expected to produce an average of 918 kilograms (29,500 ounces) of gold per year and 3,300 metric tons per year of antimony-in-concentrate over an initial mine life of 3 years. Production was expected to begin in early 2006 (Metal-Pages, 2005<sup>1</sup>).

### Reference Cited

Chemtura Corp., 2005, Crompton Corporation and Great Lakes Chemical finalize merger, become Chemtura Corporation: Middlebury, CT, Chemtura Corp. press release, July 1, 2 p.

### Internet Reference Cited

Metal-Pages, 2005 (August 5), AGD Mining to start August Sb/Au mining, accessed August 22, 2005, via URL <http://www.metal-pages.com>.

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<sup>1</sup>A reference that includes a section mark (§) is found in the Internet Reference Cited section.

TABLE 1  
SALIENT ANTIMONY STATISTICS<sup>1</sup>

(Metric tons, antimony content, unless otherwise specified)

	2004 <sup>p</sup>	2005	
		First quarter	Second quarter
Production:			
Primary smelter <sup>2</sup>	W	--	--
Secondary	4,150	W	W
Imports for consumption:	33,500	7,930 <sup>r</sup>	5,140 <sup>3</sup>
Ore and concentrate	1,750	40 <sup>r</sup>	60 <sup>3</sup>
Metal	8,270	1,840 <sup>r</sup>	1,270 <sup>3</sup>
Oxide <sup>4</sup>	23,500	6,050 <sup>r</sup>	3,810 <sup>3</sup>
Exports:	4,480	926 <sup>r</sup>	415 <sup>3</sup>
Metal, alloys, and scrap (gross weight)	566	169 <sup>r</sup>	119 <sup>3</sup>
Oxide <sup>4</sup>	3,910	757 <sup>r</sup>	296 <sup>3</sup>
Consumption of primary antimony	11,200 <sup>r</sup>	2,800	2,480
Price: Average cents per pound <sup>5</sup>	130.31	142.50	146.92
Stocks, end of period <sup>6</sup>	XX	1,450 <sup>r</sup>	1,480

<sup>p</sup>Preliminary. <sup>r</sup>Revised. W Withheld to avoid disclosing company proprietary data. XX Not applicable. -- Zero.

<sup>1</sup>Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits, except prices.

<sup>2</sup>Nearly all primary smelter output is antimony trioxide.

<sup>3</sup>Data for April and May only; June data were not available at time of publication.

<sup>4</sup>Antimony content is calculated by the U.S. Geological Survey.

<sup>5</sup>Source: Platts Metals Week. New York dealer price for 99.5% to 99.6% metal, c.i.f. U.S. ports.

<sup>6</sup>Producer and consumer stocks.

TABLE 2  
INDUSTRY STOCKS OF PRIMARY ANTIMONY  
IN THE UNITED STATES<sup>1</sup>

(Metric tons, antimony content)

Class of material	2005 <sup>2</sup>	
	First quarter	Second quarter
Metal	W	W
Oxide	983 <sup>r</sup>	1,020
Other <sup>3</sup>	462 <sup>r</sup>	467
Total	1,450 <sup>r</sup>	1,480

<sup>r</sup>Revised. W Withheld to avoid disclosing company proprietary data.

<sup>1</sup>Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

<sup>2</sup>Estimated 100% coverage based on reports from respondents who held 87% of the total stocks of antimony at the end of 2003.

<sup>3</sup>Includes ore and concentrate, sulfide, and residues.

TABLE 3  
INDUSTRIAL CONSUMPTION OF PRIMARY ANTIMONY<sup>1,2</sup>

(Metric tons, antimony content)

Class of material consumed	2004 <sup>t, p</sup>	2005 <sup>2</sup>	
		First quarter	Second quarter
Oxide	9,630	2,370	2,160
Other <sup>3</sup>	1,610	427 <sup>r</sup>	317
Total	11,200	2,800	2,480

<sup>p</sup>Preliminary. <sup>r</sup>Revised.

<sup>1</sup>Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

<sup>2</sup>Estimated 100% coverage based on reports from respondents who consumed 29% of the total antimony in 2003.

<sup>3</sup>Includes ores and concentrates, metal, sulfide, and residues.

TABLE 4  
REPORTED CONSUMPTION OF PRIMARY ANTIMONY, BY CLASS OF  
MATERIAL PRODUCED<sup>1</sup>

(Metric tons, antimony content)

Product	2004 <sup>t, p</sup>	2005 <sup>2</sup>	
		First quarter	Second quarter
Metal <sup>3</sup>	W	W	W
Nonmetal <sup>4</sup>	W	W	W
Flame-retardants:			
Plastics	448	93 <sup>r</sup>	90
Other <sup>5</sup>	676	173 <sup>r</sup>	165
Total	1,120	266	255
Grand total	3,090	776 <sup>r</sup>	673
Total reported	11,200	2,800	2,480

<sup>p</sup>Preliminary. <sup>r</sup>Revised. W Withheld to avoid disclosing company proprietary data; included with "Grand total."

<sup>1</sup>Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

<sup>2</sup>Estimated 100% coverage based on reports from respondents who consumed 29% of the total antimony in 2003.

<sup>3</sup>Includes ammunition, antimonial lead, bearing metals and bearings, cable coverings, castings, sheet and pipe, and solder.

<sup>4</sup>Includes ammunition primers, pigments, ceramics and glass, and plastics.

<sup>5</sup>Includes adhesives, pigments, rubber, and textiles.

TABLE 5  
U.S. IMPORTS FOR CONSUMPTION OF ANTIMONY, BY CLASS AND COUNTRY<sup>1</sup>

(Metric tons, antimony content)

Class and country	2004 <sup>b, 2</sup>	2005				
		First quarter <sup>2</sup>	March	April	May	January-May <sup>2</sup>
Ore and concentrate:						
China	1,380	40	20	40	20	100
Other	374	--	--	--	--	--
Total	1,750	40	20	40	20	100
Metal:						
China	5,820	1,080	625	545	468	2,090
Mexico	785	360	113	18	1	379
Peru	501	72	--	35	--	108
Other	1,160	332	141	85	112	530
Total	8,270	1,840	878	683	582	3,110
Oxide: <sup>3</sup>						
Belgium	1,750	415	181	77	105	598
China	10,700	2,690	1,400	875	869	4,440
Hong Kong	432	66	--	17	--	83
Mexico	9,590	2,790	1,020	884	731	4,400
South Africa	656	--	--	--	--	--
Other	323	87	28	105	148	340
Total	23,500	6,050	2,630	1,960	1,850	9,860
Grand total	33,500	7,930	3,530	2,680	2,460	13,100
Other antimony compounds (gross weight)	150	17	17	--	4	20

<sup>b</sup>Preliminary. -- Zero.

<sup>1</sup>Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

<sup>2</sup>May include revisions to prior months data.

<sup>3</sup>Antimony content is calculated by the U.S. Geological Survey.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.